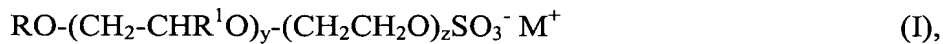


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (New): An alkyl ether sulfate salt of the general formula I



wherein

R is an unbranched or branched C₁₀-C₁₅-alkyl radical or mixtures of different unbranched or branched C₁₀-C₁₅-alkyl radicals,

R¹ is methyl,

M⁺ is a cation, selected from the group consisting of alkali metals, NH₄⁺ and HNR₃²⁺, where R² is selected from the group consisting of unbranched or branched alkyl radicals, CH₂CH₂OH and CH₂CH(OH)CH₃,

y has a mean value of 1-2, and

z has a mean value of 1-4,

for which the quotient A of the critical micelle concentration (cmc)

$$A = \frac{\text{cmc}(\text{RO}-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_z\text{SO}_3^- \text{M}^+)}{\text{cmc}(\text{RO}-(\text{CH}_2-\text{CHR}^1\text{O})_y-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_z\text{SO}_3^- \text{M}^+)} \quad \text{is} > 1.$$

Claim 12 (New): The method of using as an anion surfactant component in laundry detergents and cleaning compositions the alkyl ether sulfate salts as claimed in claim 11.

Claim 13 (New): The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said laundry detergents and cleaning compositions are selected from the group consisting of powder laundry detergents, compact laundry detergents, super compact laundry detergents, laundry detergent extrudates, laundry detergent gels, liquid laundry detergents, liquid laundry detergent

pouches, liquid laundry detergent concentrates, hand dishwashing detergents, dishwashing detergents for mechanical dishwashers, scouring cleaners or scouring milk, handwashing pastes or gels, all-purpose cleaners, glass cleaners, window cleaners, floor cleaners, bath cleaners, WC cleaners, kitchen cleaners, slaughterhouse cleaners, car shampoos and metal cleaners.

Claim 14 (New): The method of using as an anion surfactant component in chemical engineering applications the alkyl ether sulfate salts as claimed in claim 11.

Claim 15 (New): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said chemical engineering applications are selected from the group consisting of textile aids, papermaking aids and leather aids, fire-extinguishing foams, pesticide formulations, uses in emulsion polymerizations, for metal pretreatment, as aids for the ceramics industry, as cooling lubricants and in emulsifying processes.

Claim 16 (New): The method of using in cosmetics applications the alkyl ether sulfate salts as claimed in claim 11.

Claim 17 (New): The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said cosmetics applications are selected from the group consisting of shower gels, hair shampoos, bath additives, syndets, lotions, oils/perfume oils, liquid handwashing soaps and emulsifiers for creams.

Claim 18 (New): A laundry detergent or cleaning composition or cosmetics formulation comprising an alkyl ether sulfate salt as claimed in claim 11.